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R 231215Z SEP 77
FM (b)(3):10 USC 424
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BT
~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~/NOFORN SEP 77
SUBJ: THIS IS IR (b)(3):10 USC 424
1. ARGENTINA (AR)
2. (b)(3):10 USC 424
3. ~~(C)~~ MILITARY INTENTIONS - ARGENTINES CONCERNED WITH CHILEAN ACTIVITY IN PATAGONIA
4. N/A
5. 770919
6. 770920
7. 770919
8. INITIATIVE
9. (b)(3):10 USC 424
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49

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.14. (b)(3):10 USC 424

15. DIRC: ~~NO - NOFORN TO AVOID EMBARRASSMENT TO HOST GOVT~~

16. SUMMARY: ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ ARGENTINE MILITARY ARE CONCERNED WITH CHILEAN MILITARY ACTIVITIES ALONG THE SOUTHERN BORDER OF THE TWO COUNTRIES.

22. DETAILS: ~~(C/NOFORN)~~

Sec. 3.3(b) (1)

SOURCE SAID THAT THERE HAVE BEEN SIGNS THAT THE CHILEANS ARE MOBILIZING CIVILIAN AND MILITARY PERSONNEL IN THE ANDEAN REGION OF PATAGONIA. HE SAID THAT RECENTLY THE CHILEANS HAD CAUSED 2500 OF THEIR NATIONALS WORKING IN ARGENTINA TO RETURN TO CHILE. THE IMPLICATION SOURCE MADE AS THAT THESE PEOPLE WOULD BE PART OF A FORCE THE CHILEANS WOULD USE AGAINST ARGENTINA.

2. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ SOURCE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE ARGENTINE ARMED FORCES ARE WELL AWARE OF ALL CHILEAN ACTIONS IN THE BORDER AREA, AND ARE READY TO TAKE ARMED RETALITORY ACTION IF NECESSARY. SOURCE EMPHASIZED THAT ARGENTINA WOULD ONLY RESORT TO ARMED CONFLICT AGAINST CHILE IF IT WAS PROVOKED, AND IF WAS OBVIOUS TO WORLD OPINION THAT THE BRUDEN OF RESPOHVIBILITY FOR THE CONFLICT LAY WITH CHILE. IF THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES MATERIALIZE,

Sec. 3.3(b) (1);Sec. 3.3(b) (6)

3. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ THE CHILEAN ATTACHES HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY ACTIVE IN BUENOS AIRES RECENTLY. HE STATED THAT IN THE CASE OF THE CHILEAN AIR ATTACHE, THE ARGAF HAD TO RESORT TO A FORMAL NOTE REMINDING HIM TO COMPLY WITH THE PRESCRIBED NORMS FOR MAKING CONTACT WITH HIGH-LEVEL ARGAF OFFICERS. SOURCE IMPLIED THAT THE OTHER ARGENTINE SERVICES WERE HAVING SIMILAR PROBLEMS WITH THE CHILEAN ATTACHES ACCREDITED TO THEM.

COMMENT: ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT A GROWING CONCERN EXISTS AMONG ARGENTINE MILITARY VIS-A-VIS CHILEAN ACTIVITIES IN PATAGONIA. THERE HAVE BEEN OCCASIONAL REPORTS FROM OTHER SOURCES THAT THE ARGENTINES MAY BE REDEPLOYING SOME OF THEIR OWN FORCES TO THAT AREA AS A SHOW OF STRENGTH AND/OR WILL. [redacted] NO WAY TO EVALUATE THE REPORT THAT GOC RECALLED 2500 WORKERS FROM ARGENTINA, OR THAT THEY ARE BEING PREPARED TO OPERATE AGAINST ARGENTINA, IF NECESSARY. IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT EITHER THE FACT OR THE MOTIVE IS ACCURATE. Sec. 3.3(b) (1) THE MILITARY MAY

(b)(3):10 USC 424

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BE USING A GENERATED THREAT IN THE SOUTH AS A METHOD TO GRADUALLY FOCUS THE ATTENTION OF THE MILITARY, AND LATER THE POPULACE, AWAY FROM THE INTERNAL STRUGGLE AGAINST TERRORISM, AND TOWARD ANOTHER THREAT: CHILEAN ENCROACHMENT IN PATAGONIA. (AS ANOTHER EXAMPLE THERE HAVE BEEN NEWSPAPER REPORTS OF UNIDENTIFIED FISHING SHIPS OFF ARGENTINE COAST NEAR COMODORO RIVADAVIA.)

Sec. 3.3(b) (6);Sec. 3.3(b) (1)

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49